

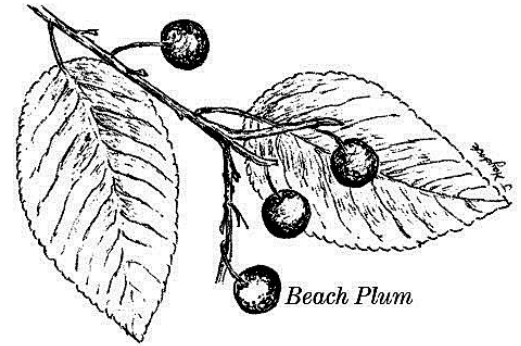


# ***BERRY PICKING INFORMATION***

*Parker River National Wildlife Refuge*

*(978) 465-5753*

***IMPORTANT:*** A permit is required for picking beach plums and cranberries on the refuge. A limited number of free permits are awarded via lottery selection. The permit application period is July 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. Permit selectees will be notified by August 10<sup>th</sup>. Once awarded, permits may be picked up at refuge headquarters Monday thru Friday from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm or Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. A permit is valid for the duration of the picking season. Beach plums may be picked from September 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, and cranberries can be picked October 1<sup>st</sup> – November 15<sup>th</sup>. Permittees must have the permit in their possession when picking on the refuge.



## **GENERAL**

There is a long history of picking cranberries and beach plums on Plum Island. It's a tradition that continues today at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Anyone seeking a permit must be at least 12 years old. The daily limit for either berry is one quart. Children under 12 can help pick but that amount will be counted as part of the permittee's daily limit. To protect the fragile habitats where these fruits occur, specific areas are designated for these activities. Beach plum picking is allowed along the refuge road and within 25 feet of the edge of refuge parking lots. Beach plums may also be picked along trails, but visitors must stay on the trails at all times. Cranberry picking is allowed only in the bog located just north of the Lot 2 boardwalk (see map on reverse).

## **ACCESS AND PARKING**

Berry collecting is limited to when the refuge is open (sunrise to sunset). Parking is restricted to designated parking lots. Cranberry pickers should park in Lot 2 and access the bog via the BB1 access road (which converges with the refuge road just north of the parking lot – see map on reverse).

## **SAFETY**

You must return to your vehicle at least half an hour prior to sunset. Please be alert for poison ivy, rose, green briar, and ticks. Deer ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) can transmit Lyme Disease, which is prevalent in this area. After venturing into tick habitat, always check for ticks when you return to your vehicle or home. Wear light colored clothing to facilitate spotting ticks. Wear long sleeve shirts and keep pant legs tucked into your socks and boot tops. The risk of tick attachment can also be reduced by applying insect repellents containing DEET.

